hoy carnival

mail: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Thursday, January 29, 2009



Price of a barrel of petroleum today:

US\$ 42.16

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

SEVERED TIES



Pope Benedict XVI acknowledges the faithful during his weekly general audience, in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009. Benedict XVI said Wednesday that he feels "full and indisputable solidarity" with Jews and warned against any reduction or denials of the horror of the Holocaust.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

ΗΕΔΤ ΗΔΥΛΩ

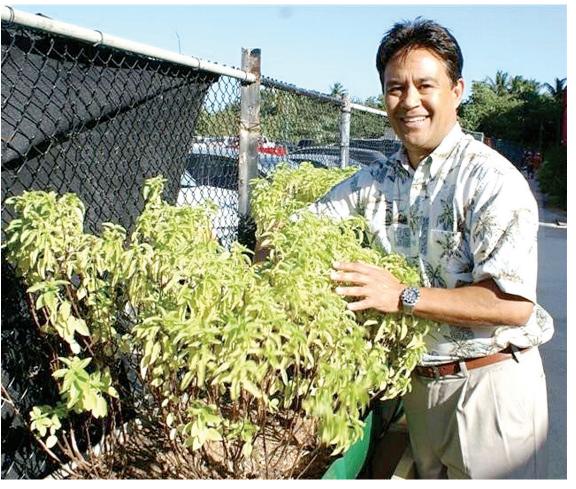


Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates after winning over France's Gilles Simon in their Men's singles quarterfinal match at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009.

See Sports Today

Now available

Romantic gifts from Larimar Spa



Valentine's Day on the horizon, Bruce Cavan, Spa Director at Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa. rolled out a number of romantic spa packages designed to celebrate love and romance in a supremely relaxing and pampering style. In honor of Valentine's month Larimar Spa offers its signature Aloe Vera and Rum Massage, as a beautifully wrapped gift certificate, or a Romantic Couple's Massage, as another option, featuring one to four hours, a sideby-side experience, inviting lovers to spend quality time with each other, in 13,000sq.ft., of pure indulgence. The 80-minute massages are followed by a Larimar Garden Ritual pedicure ending with a PerfectSenseTM Paraffin Treatment.

Continued on Page 15

"Best Hotel for Romance - in the world"

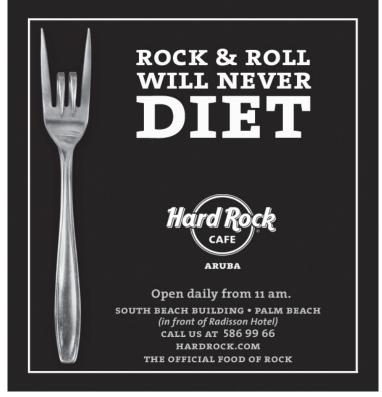
Bucuti Beach Resort wins Trip Advisors 2009 Travelers Choice Award





EAGLE BEACH - Bucuti Beach Resort was awarded the Traveler's Choice Award for the fourth consecutive year, as one of the of the top 10 Best Hotels for Romance in the World.

Read Page 10



Thursday, January 29, 2009 LOCAL

Aruba TODAY





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+ (297) 525 25 25

Every evening

G. Smith's Steak & Chop House introduces Sumptuous Sundowner

ORANJESTAD – The popular of Vegetables, Caesar Salad or L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House is offering a new dinner option, nightly from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visitors who wish to dine early receive great value at the classic downtown dining spot featuring a choice of the most delicious Cream

Fried Calamari with Marinara for starters, followed by wonderful main course selections such as Surf and Turf - Garlic Shrimp paired with U.S. Prime Cut Steak; Grilled Certified Angus Beef Shish Kabobs; Pan-fried Mahi-



Mahi with Mango Salsa, or Chicken Breast Picatta served over Fettuccini. Each entree is escorted by two different side dishes of the patron's choice, and accompanied by a glass of Concha y Toro's Casillero del Diablo Chardonnay or



Merlot, per person.

For dessert patrons are allowed to debate the merits of the ever-satisfying Carrot Cake with Carrot Jelly & Raspberry Sauce versus the merits of the

games and slot machines or for those seeking even more excitement the Havana Dance Revue at the Crsvtal theater starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are available at the box office.







and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill. Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Reservation recommended For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154



Visit us at our **NEW location on** La Cabana's Boardwalk











Royal Caribbean Cruises Earnings Review



Cruise operator Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. reports earnings for its fourth quarter on Thursday. The following is a summary of key developments and analyst opinion related to the period.

OVERVIEW: Royal Caribbean had a mixed fourth quarter as fuel prices dropped sharply, reducing its costs, but so did consumer discretionary spending, a change that cut into revenue.

As oil prices continued to fall during the fourth quarter, Royal Caribbean rolled back its fuel surcharges - first lifting the supplement for most of its cruises as of 2010 and then for trips in 2009.

Rival cruise operator Carnival Corp. also lifted its fuel supplements. Both companies have said they may reinstate the surcharges if oil prices rebound.

In spite of dropping fuel prices, Royal Caribbean was not immune to economic volatility. When the company reported its third-quarter results in late October, it reported a "significant deterioration" in new bookings due to financial turmoil.

In November, the company

said it would discontinue its regular quarterly common stock dividend, which had been 15 cents a share per quarter, to preserve its liquidity.

Also during the fourth quarter, Royal Caribbean agreed to sell its 50 percent interest in Island Cruises to its joint venture partner, First Choice Holidays Ltd., a unit of British-based tour operator TUI Travel PLC. The financial terms were not disclosed, although Royal Caribbean said it will book a small gain on the transaction.

BY THE NUMBERS: Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters forecast fourth-quarter earnings of 8 cents per share on revenue of \$1.46 billion. Royal Caribbean has predicted quarterly earnings of 5 cents to 10 cents per share. ANALYST TAKE: In a recent note to investors, Steven Wieczynski of Stifel Nicolaus & Co. said he expects Royal Caribbean's fourth-quarter results to beat Wall Street's expectations, due in part to the lower-than-expected fuel prices. He predicts earnings per share of 10 cents on revenue of \$1.47 billion.

But Wieczynski expects cutbacks in consumer spending to lead to a conservative 2009

forecast. "Visibility remains extremely low with the booking window contracting as consumers hold off on making large purchasing decisions," he said.

WHAT'S AHEAD: The first test of cruise bookings in 2009 comes this month through March - known as wave season - when cruise bookings usually surge.

"However, this year the wave season could not come at a worse time for the consumer," said Goldman Sachs analyst Steven Kent in a recent note to investors.

"Fears of job loss and increased savings will be on the

consumer's mind rather than the booking of a \$2,000 to \$10,000 cruise."

STOCK PERFORMANCE: Royal Caribbean shares fell about 34 percent during the period, closing at \$13.75 on Dec. 31, 2008. The stock hit an all-time low of \$5.97 on Nov. 21.

Cruises are better deals than ever

Economic Turmoil Makes for cheap getaways



ORANJESTAD - Despite the shaky economy, there is no better time to reserve space on an upcoming cruise. In the last 20 years in the cruise industry there have rarely been as many good deals as are currently available. This is especially true for all the "budget challenged" out there seeking a reasonably priced vacation. Besides affordability--prices for three night cruises start as low as \$200 per person, double occupancy--another point to consider is convenience as you can drive to many departure ports and avoid the hassles of airport crowded flights. Nowadays there are more than 30 U.S. ports from Seattle to Los Angeles to Galveston, New Orleans, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Baltimore New York, and Boston--offering a variety of itineraries throughout the year.

Among the leaders are the two biggest cruise lines--Carnival and Royal Caribbean--which are offering more cruises than ever before on itineraries of five days or less. Carnival and Royal Caribbean ships are especially popular with couples lokng for a romantic getaway as well as families in the market for a relaxing, fun filled weekend. These short cruises also provide the opportunity for first time cruisers to "test the waters" before investing in a longer itinerary. Choices abound on short cruises throughout 2009, and I strongly recommend three day Bahamas cruises and four and five day western Caribbean sailings departing out of Miami and Fort Lauderdale, four and five day Caribbean cruises leaving from Galveston and New Orleans and three and four day Baja cruises out of Los Angeles calling at Ensenada, San Diego and Catalina Island. Another favorite is Norwegian Cruise Line which offers three and four day cruise to the Bahamas out of Miami aboard the Norwegian Sky. Prices start as low as \$229 per person for an inside cabin and \$329 for a balcony stateroom; these cruises are available through August.

Royal Caribbean recently announced that it is offering 18 itineraries ranging from two to five days during 2009-2010 on more than 300 sailings. Among the most popular are departures from Tampa, Port Canaveral, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami aboard one of five Royal Caribbean Navigator of ships: Seas, Enchantment of the Seas, Grandeur of the Seas, Majesty of the Seas and Monarch of the Seas (as you can probably tell all Royal Caribbean ships end with "of the seas").

Navigator of the Seas has the distinction of being the first Royal Caribbean ship featuring a rock climbing wall, ice skating rink, nice hole mini-golf course and Royal Promenade-a boulevard lines with shops, restaurants, bars and lounges that extends nearly the entire length of the ship

Bingo!

Lady Luck hits at Excelsior Casino



people in the pictures got very lucky indeed, winning \$510 each. The Excelsior Casino

PALM BEACH - All the is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests

come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. beautiful



Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack

can be delt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. Excelsior The Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsion Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out.

Loyal visitor honored at the Mill Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Mill Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those

with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the



Mill Resort which they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba: June McBrien and

Susan & Gregory McBrien from Ontario Canada. Pictured; Mr. Ricardo Croes from ATA and honorees together with Marvel Vilchez from The Mill Resort



Cosas del Mar

Marty Relan Does Solo Exposition at "Het Binnenhuys"

you'll find the inspiration

DAKOTA - One of the great sight of a tropical bird feeding things of living on a tropical of the cacti blossom or a island like Aruba, is that the colorful fish shooting away in true magical Caribbean is the emerald blue waters reminds everywhere. In small details us of the beautiful paradise that we can call home. Especially that for so many non natives the ever-changing spectacular is mesmerizing and forever a views of the Caribbean Sea world on itself. Any day the give us that prefect tropical

relaxation. Minimalistic yet spectacular and exotic in small details such as a shell half buried in the sand, remind us of the prefect simple life. As Marty Relan, a local artiste that relocated to Aruba from the US puts it, when describing her newest exhibition that will be opening at "Het Binnenhuys" on Friday Jan 30th "I have always had a love of the sea and all the things in it. I call my paintings "Cosas del Mar", things of the sea, because that is

the inspiration for my paintings.

I prefer to pare my subjects

down to their simplicity and

not confuse the eye with a lot of

background and surroundings.

There is such amazing beauty in

the geometry of a seashell that it

needs nothing else around it to

designer in US, ending in 2008, this great artist is famous for her unique sense of style. Just a few things from her resume include a background of interior designing and home decorating next to a formal art education in Chicago. Now she is proudly presenting

painting fish and other sea

creatures, I have been adding a

little bit more of the sea around

them, but I still prefer to let their

own beauty do the speaking

for itself. Color and geometry

are what it is all about."

Not just any one who picked up

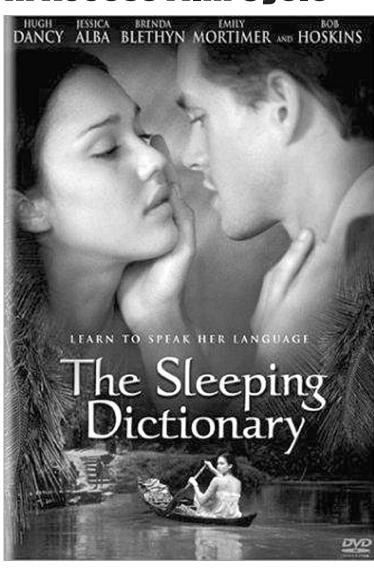
a brush, Employed as interior

her art at "Het Binnenhuys", which outside of being the interior decorating store on Aruba, is also an Art Gallery; "Het Binnenhuys" loves to work

feeling of complete and utter make it more beautiful. When and participate in the local art scene and in this way supporting and stimulating the local artists. "Het Binnenhuys" carries paintings, objects, statues and jewelry, besides specializing amongst other themes in the island living style, what the owner and internationally acclaimed interior designer Karin Martens, likes to call "Long Island Feel".

> Your are cordially invited to the opening of "Cosas del Mar" by Marty Relan "Het Binnenhuys", at January 30th 7.30 p.m". Het Binnenhuys Avenida Milio Croes (in the street to Flora and Price Mart, across the street from van Dorp Bookstore)
> ☐

New Movie to Come out in Access Film Cycle



Director: Guy Jenkin. Cast: Hugh Dancy, Jessica Alba, Brenda Blethyn, Emily Mortimer and Bob Hoskins

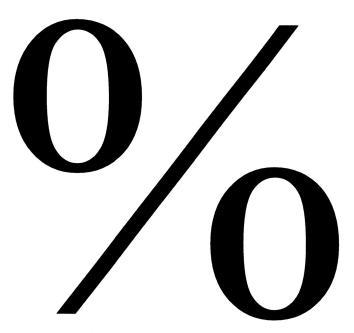
Running Time: 109 minutes Awards: 4 wins & 6 nominations

"The Sleeping Dictionary" A strange, interesting little film. "Sleeping Dictionary" certainly has some flaws, but it's a beautiful, quiet and well acted little film. The film stars Hugh Dancy as John, a Brit dispatched in 1937 to the outpost of Sarawak to join the colonial government and educate the area. When he arrives there, he finds that his tutor in the local language (and in the bedroom - hence her title, "Sleeping Dictionary") is the beautiful Selima (Jessica Alba, of TV's "Dark Angel"). Of course, he eventually falls for her - although who wouldn't fall for Jessica Alba, especially Alba dressed in little tribal outfits.

"Sleeping Dictionary" starts off rather awkwardly, but once it gets going and becomes more dramatic, the film really started to come together quite nicely as a romantic drama.

"The sleeping Dictionary" by Guy Jenkin: Thursday 29th of January 2009 at 8.00pm.

Contribution is strongly suggested in order to continue with our film club presentations.



SPRING SALE

Going on now!

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Open Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9:30pm - 6:30pm Delivering innovative technology

Geox now open at the Renaissance Mall



ORANJESTAD – Geox Aruba now enjoys its soft opening at the Renaissance Mall. The concept store opened its doors to the public even before completing the setup as shoppers were knocking on the door, asking to make purchases even before the store-sign was installed.

Geox is apparently a very popular Italian brand with a dedicated following in the USA and Europe. The Geox genesis goes back to the '90s during a business trip to Reno Nevada to promote the family wine business at a trade fair Italian businessman Mario Polegato decided to go for hike in the mountains.

Soon he became irritated by his overheating feet, baking inside his rubber-soled shoes,





NIGHT SHOPPING UNTIL 10:30PM

Cold Beer prices ranges from \$2. Souvenirs a wide variety of snacks. Also available Rums made in Aruba at a good price. T-Shirt at \$4. / Aruba bags \$8.

COLD WINE VARITY

Bring this Ad & receive a FREE gift with any purches of \$25.

OPEN DAILY

We're located at walking distance from the High Rise Area. You can get your basic food & drink.

ED AT: 186-D PALM BEACH (next to Dominos Tel: 586-1710 • email: shopngo@setarnet.aw



and in a flash of inspiration the 'shoes that breathe' were born as he punctured holes in the soles to let air in and excess heat escape.

He knew from the beginning that the idea would be revolutionary and would change the way people think about their shoes.

Polegato went home to Italy and patented the technology according to which outsoles are perforated in the forefoot area where most sweat glands are located. The micro-porous membrane he designed features holes smaller than water molecules, but larger than vapor molecules. The membrane is inserted inside the sole to allow on-going ventilation, preventing water and debris from coming anywhere near feet.

The fruit of Polegato's flash inspiration is a comfortable line of footwear especially suited for active feet and for anyone working on his feet,



standing, or walking for an extended period of time.

The benefits of having Happy Feet is enormous, resulting in a happier facial expression and a general feeling of wellbeing, which is especially true for women who often buy shoes based on aesthetics which sacrifice comfort.

Geox, hailing from Italy, has been in the US market

since 2004 and enjoys great popularity on an international level

4ruba TODAY

admire the amazing collection for men, women and children, visit the Geox Store at Renaissance Mall; the shoes are blessed by Italian design and combine style and functionality. Geox Aruba, Renaissance Mall, tel.: 588 6736, Geox@setarnet.aw



Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484 Schotland str. 70

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We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars. Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.

With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!



Pancakes • Pizza • Eggs • Daily Fresh Soup • Saté • Sandwiches • Espresso

Linda's Pancakes & Pizza's Palm Beach #6-D (next to Valero Gas Station)

OPEN:

Monday - Saturday 08.00AM - 10:00PM

> **Sunday** Closed

TEL: (297) 586-3378

LOCAL A7 Thursday, January 29, 2009

Rodger & Linda Gaboury honored at the Paradise Villas





EAGLE BEACH - Recently at the Paradise Villas, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Paradise Villas which they call their home away from home. Rodger & Linda Gaboury was honored as an Ambassador of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba after coming to the Island for 20 years

Pictured; Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Rodger & Linda at the Paradise Villas.





HAVANA DANCE DINNER & SHOW PACKAGE



L.G. SMITH'S

STEAK & CHOP HOUSE

www.lgsmiths.com

L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House offers mouthwatering American steak house fare and an extensive international wine list. Enjoy Aruba's premiere location for suberb dining in a stylish décor.

GREAT SHOW, GREAT STEAKS, GREAT SERVICE, GREAT PRICES

Open daily from 5:30pm until 11pm Recommended seatings 5:30pm - 6pm - 6:30pm For reservations call **523-6195** Located next to the Crystal Casino

*Price includes show ticket and 3-course dinner show menu

Friday Flamenco Fiesta; Well Worth The Short Trip Downtown

Paella & Flamenco at Casa Tua Downtown on Friday

DOWNTOWN - Casa Tua draws a crowd of local and not-so-local folks who can't seem to get enough of the pizza and the place. There's almost always a wait here, even if you have reservations, so place yourself at the bar with the smell of brick oven pizzas wafting to other tables, and knowing that at some point, that bliss will be yours. Al fresco dining is designed with a chicly rustic feel. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed, "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

With a Sicilian-style thin Casa Tua's famous secret thin crust, dripping with cheese crust recipe was handed down and fresh-made tomato by an Italian chef, known sauce, this pizza comes with locally as "the pizza master", a variety of toppings in the in the French student city of meat and veggie categories. Montpellier in 1969. This Pasta dishes, full Italian recipe has been perfected meals like Lasagne and veal over the years to such a point Osso Buco, fresh salads where Casa Tua is known on and rich desserts are also the island these days for the on the menu.



best pizza. Period.

Casa Tua Palm Beach open 5pm to 11pm. Casa Tua Downtown open 11am to 11pm, Sundays 5pm to 11pm.

For more information or reservations call Palm Beach: 586 8470 **Downtown:** 588 5695 Or ask your concierge.



Aruba_TODAY

Chef says; "Only the highest quality will do"

Ladies' Sushi Night at Nobushi Tonight



PASEO HERENCIA - Nobushi brings to Aruba the finest sushi. If you are in a hurry, go somewhere else. At Nobushi, every single piece gets the love and attention it needs from the professional Sushi chefs. Nobushi Sushi Bar & Asian Cuisine features a variety of sashimi, sushi rolls, chicken, fish and meat entrees that will enlighten your senses.

Call: 586-2211 or ask your concierge. At the Paseo Herencia Mall





Every dish a surprise to the senses

Moby Dick's; Directly from the Seas to your Plate

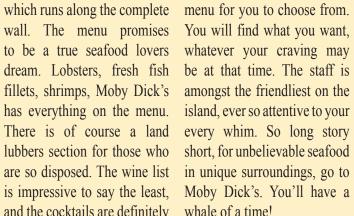
Moby Dick's has one artwork, amazing glass mission; to take you to carvings, and both the depths of the blue floors are dominated ocean to taste some by gigantic fountains, of the most exquisite with water running dishes to come from from ceiling to floor the deep. What a truly along multicoloured lit beautiful restaurant this fibre optic cables. The is, and what a unique stairway is lined by

PASEO HERENCIA – inside is studded with interior to match. The an impressive painting



which runs along the complete and the cocktails are definitely whale of a time! worth a taste.

as well. The chef has made and Reservations well rounded, extensive Call: 586 8333



Moby Dick's is open for lunch For More information



LOCATED AT THE HOLIDAY INN

Monday \$25 buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Tuesday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Wednesday \$10 Buy-in \$1,000 Guaranteed Thursday \$25 Buy-in \$2,500 Guaranteed Friday \$50 Buy-in \$4,000 Guaranteed Saturday \$10 Buy-in \$1,500 Guaranteed Sunday Free Roll No Entry Fee \$2,000 (at 5pm) (Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)

SPORTS BOOK

No charge or tax on winnings

Live simulcast of all major tracks Highest limits in Aruba Sports Book opens at 12:30 pm

POKER ROOM EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

7 p.m. **TEXAS HOLD-EM** \$4-\$8 LIMIT BUY-IN FOR \$30 RECEIVE \$60 IN

MUST PLAY TWO (2) HOURS

CONVENIENT PARKING

Located at the Holiday Inn Where There's Always A Game

Every Friday

Don't miss the Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail

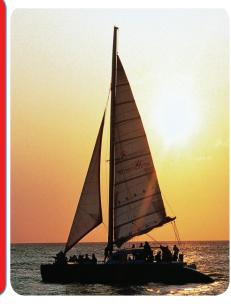
Experience the fun and exican Buffet Dinner and a citement of sailing Mex- complimentary bar featurican-style aboard one of ing Coronita beer, Marga-Red Sail Sports' luxurious ritas, and Tequilas. Watch catamarans. The 2-hour sail the sun set, the colors of the takes you along Aruba's sky change and the island scenic coastline, while be- slowly light up. This is the ing delighted by live Mari- perfect sail to celebrate the achi Music.

This vibrant unforgettable the start of a fun filled sail provides a casual Mex- Caribbean night.

end of a Caribbean day and

reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

To make





"Best Hotel for Romance - in the world"

Bucuti Beach Resort wins Trip Advisors 2009 Travelers Choice Award



EAGLE BEACH - Bucuti Beach Resort was awarded the Traveler's Choice Award for the fourth consecutive year, as one of the of the top 10 Best Hotels for Romance in the World. TripAdvisor reports that "the Travelers' Choice awards represent the unbiased opinions of millions of real travelers, are quickly becoming among the most coveted awards in the travel industry. The

2009 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice awards recognized the best hotels in the following categories: Best Luxury, Best Service, Best Hidden Gem, Best Bargain, Best Inns & B&B's, Best for Romance,

Families and Best Pool."

"We are very proud to named one of the top 10 most romantic resorts in the World and for the 4th year in a row!" states Susan Biemans, responsible for marketing at Bucuti. "This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our operations team lead by our resort manager Deborah Dintelman and owner Ewald Biemans. Day after day they look after our guests with great care and it is that personal connection that motivates our guests to return home and take the time to write a positive review about their experience. Care is not something that we can achieve through training, it is the spirit of hospitality that lives within our special team at Bucuti. I feel privileged to be a part of this team."

Bucuti Beach Resort featuring Tara Beach Suites & Spa is Aruba's premier, intimate, upscale boutique resort. Located on the white powder sands of Eagle Beach, Bucuti offers 104 guest rooms and an abundance of contemporary European charm in addition to a caring and attentive staff, innovative technology including advance check-in, high-speed Wi-Fi access throughout the resort and loaner laptops, and a commitment to sustainable tourism.

Bucuti Beach Resort is Green Globe 21 and ISO 14001 certified and has been recognized by notable organizations such as the Caribbean Hotel Association, American Express and the International Hotel and Restaurant Association for its environmentally responsible hotel operations. For more information, visit www.bucuti.com

A full list of winners is available via a link on their website homepage: http://www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice

For Images of Bucuti Beach Resort: www.bucuti.com/photobank

"Aruhiba" Aruba's homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called 'Aruhiba'. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of 'Aruhiba'' cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi's dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



the logo 'Aruhiba' and 'Made in Aruba'. Petrochi considers 'Aruhiba' a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well.

international cigars as well.

Buy a gift box of Aruhiba
Corona with five cigars and
get 1 free for \$35.00.

Located at the Historic Dutch

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RADS MARUSA

Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday.

And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.

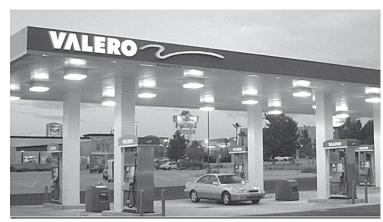






LOCAL A11 Thursday, January 29, 2009

Valero could shutter refineries if no sale-CEO



HOUSTON- Valero Energy Corp could permanently shut those of its 15 North American refineries it no longer wants to own but may not be able to sell in the current economic downturn, Chairman and Chief Executive Bill Klesse said on Tuesday.

"If you don't want them and you can't sell them, I guess the answer would be yes," Klesse said to an analyst who asked if undesirable refineries might be permanently shut.

Valero has identified its Memphis and Aruba refineries as plants it would like to sell.





Discover the Radisson Aruba



Thursday: Chateaubriand - Oo-la-la

\$19.95 per person plus service charge

Featuring a French-inspired, double-thick center cut of Grilled Beef Tenderloin, Southern Fried Chicken, Garden Vegetables, Potatoes, Island Rice, Gourmet Salad Bar, fresh baked Breads and Desserts including Apple Pie, Bread Pudding, Flan and Cheesecake.

Dinner Buffet: 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.



LagunaRestaurantAruba.com

*Kids under age 12, one per paying adult.

• KIDS EAT FREE •

Not valid with any others offers.



SunsetGrilleAruba.com

Nightly Special: Fine Dining

USDA Prime Beef, Fresh Seafood and Spa Cuisine Voted "2007 Best Restaurant in the Caribbean" AAA 4-Diamond & Wine Spectator Award Winner

Choose from indoor art deco ambiance or open-air terrace dining.

Reservations Recommended



The Larimar Spa at the Radisson Aruba features nine beautifully appointed treatment rooms, offering a full menu of services including advanced skin care therapies, therapeutic and integrated massages, exfoliating, nourishing and detoxifying body treat-ments including body polishes and wraps, and a full-service salon...all certain to ensure your return to indulge time after time.

- Salon Services
- Body Treatments Facials/Skincare
- Gift Certificates

Larimar Spa

Open Daily 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. For appointments, call 526.6053

LarimarSpaAruba.com



Martini Bar

Our outdoor lounge perched atop cascading waterfalls and open to sun, stars and cooling breezes. Liquid pleasures await...premium vodkas, scotches, cognacs, and tequilas - or choose from our Martini Madness menu. The place to start, end or spend the evening!

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Thursday, January 29, 2009 PEOPLE & ARTS





U.S. actor Brad Pitt attends a news conference for his film 'The Curious Case of Benjamin Button' in Tokyo January 28, 2009. (Toru Hanai/Reuters)

Brad Pitt "thrilled" by Oscar nominations

TOKYO (Reuters) - Hollywood actor Brad Pitt said on Wednesday he was thrilled by the raft of Academy Award nominations for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," which include his own first nomination for the best actor award.

Pitt was in Tokyo with his partner Angelina Jolie and their six children for the Japan premier of the film, which leads this year's field with 13 Oscar nominations, one short of the record shared by "All About Eve" (1950) and "Titanic" (1997).

"So we're thrilled to see it, to see it acknowledged that way," Pitt told a news conference in Tokyo.

"For us you know, it means that more people get to see it and I think it's a worthy film that deserves that kind of viewing -over and over again. Go see it three times and see it again," he added.

Pitt, 45, faces a tough race for the best actor award, to be announced on February 22, with Sean Penn and Mickey Rourke seen as the favorites for their respective roles as a gay rights activist in "Milk" and an aging professional fighter in "The Wrestler."

"Benjamin Button" tracks the love story between the title character, played by Pitt, and Daisy, played by Cate Blanchett, and the joy and pain they face as one gets younger and the other

Pitt, said his current life was as dramatic as the life of the fictional Button, who was born in his eighties and aged backwards.

"Well, I think it's well documented. I have six children now so it doesn't get more dramatic than that," said Pitt.

In July 2008, Jolie gave birth in France to twins, a girl named Vivienne Marcheline and a boy named Knox Leon.

In addition to the twins, Jolie and Pitt are parents to four other young children -- adoptees Maddox, Pax and Zahara, and their first biological daughter, Shiloh. Japanese television showed the entire family arriving at the airport in Tokyo, greeted by screaming fans.

"Benjamin Button," loosely based on a 1920s short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, has been floating around Hollywood for decades. The film's producers, Kathleen Kennedy and Frank Marshall, took over the project about 18 years ago, but struggled with the central issue -- how to depict its star being born as an old man and eventually dying as a baby.

Technical wizardry allowed the producers and director David Fincher to use Pitt throughout rather than multiple actors.

Despite the flow of Oscar nominations, "Benjamin Button" has had a rough ride so far this awards season, having been ignored by both the Critics Choice Awards and the Golden Globes, two Oscar bellwethers.

Bon Jovi Sued Over Arena Football Fumbling

Los Angeles (E! Online) -This is not what Jon Bon Jovi had in mind when he crooned "Lay Your Hands on Me."

A former sales manager for the Philadelphia Soul, the arena football team co-owned by the rocker, is suing Bon Jovi and his partners for failing to pay \$125,000 in wages and

Rourke ready to rumble in **Houston**



Actor Mickey Rourke arrives at the 15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles)

HOUSTON - Listen up wrestlin' fans: actor Mickey Rourke says he's ready to rumble with WWE superstar Chris Jericho at Wrestlemania 25 in Reliant Stadium on April 5.

Rourke portrays professional wrestler Randy the Ram in the acclaimed movie "The Wrestler."

He's signed to wrestle Jericho, for real.

He made surprise announcement Sunday night on the red carpet before the Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

He said he was pleased by the acceptance of the movie by all the WWE wrestlers — except Jericho.

Then Rourke said he was going to toss Jericho "around the ring like tossed salad."

Meanwhile, Jericho, appearing on WWE television, said, Rourke was out of line and that he was offended by Rourke's comments. He said Rourke made "a mistake." Stay tuned.



commissions, the Philadelphia Inquirer reports.

Per the lawsuit, filed in Pennsylvania's Pleas Court Jan. 9 by Joseph Krause, Bon Jovi and his coowners decided to shutter team operations and grant Prayer" singer had the nerve staffers two weeks' severance. But Krause says he was never paid \$83,359 in commission for the previous serason, when the team won the ArenaBowl. That's in addition to \$41,456

in commissions for the 2009 season. The sputtering Arena Football League canceled the Common rest of the 2009 season due to the economic downturn. To add insult to injury, Krause

> alleged the "Living on a to joke to employees: "If you see us on the street begging for food, please give us a hand." Reps for Bon Jovi and the Soul did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment.

Bahamian Politician Pleads Innocent to Travolta Extortion Plot

Josh Grossberg and Ashlev Fultz

Los Angeles (E! Online) – A former Bahamian lawmaker today became the second suspect to plead not guilty to charges of conspiring to extort \$25 million from John Travolta and Kelly Preston in the wake of their son Jett's tragic death.

Sen. Pleasant Bridgewater was arraigned this morning on one count of "Abetment to extort" and "conspiracy to commit extortion."

"I believe she was released on \$40,000 bail and resigned from her position as senator," Royal Bahamas Police Assistant Commissioner Raymond Gibson tells E! News.

The other suspect in the case, paramedic Tarino Lightborne, was charged with conspiracy to commit extortion and attempted extortion and entered his not guilty plea on Monday.

A third person taken into custody, MP Obie Wilchcombe, a family friend of the Travoltas and a former Minister of Tourism for the island nation, was cleared of wrongdoing and is said to have assisted police in their investigation.

"No criminal charges were brought against him," said Gibson. The official declined to divulge further information regarding the extent of Bridgewater's alleged involvement in the scheme or the details of the conversations she had with Travolta's attorney that led to her arrest.

"We want to try this case in court; not in the media," Gibson

Details regarding the nature of the extortion plot are fuzzy. But a certain document at the heart of the complaint is a refusalto-transport form, which waives first responders from all liability when signed by a party that refuses emergency medical aid from trained personnel for minor injuries.

BUSILESS TODAY



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, January 26, 2009.

(Shannon Stapleton/Reuters)

Stocks jump on reports of plan for bad bank assets

By TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – The optimism is building on Wall Street.

Financial stocks led Wall Street sharply higher Wednesday on investor hopes the Obama administration will create banks to absorb the bad assets weighing down the financial system. The Standard & Poor's 500 index, a benchmark for the overall stock market, completed its first four-day rally since late November. And the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 201 points.

Financial companies surged on the notion that the government could take soured debt like defaulting mortgages off the hands of banks and place them in a so-called bad bank to hold toxic assets. Investors have been worrying that banks won't be able to resume more normal levels of lending without somehow dumping or walling off the bad debt that is corroding their balance sheets. And the economy can't recover from a 14-month-old recession without improvements in lending and consumer confidence.

Robert B. MacIntosh, chief economist at Eaton Vance Investment Management in Boston, said many questions remain about how a plan would work to take up bad assets. He added, though, that financial stocks have been so beaten down that a rally isn't a gurnise.

"The financials are just begging for good news here," he said. Bank shares jumped: Wells Fargo & Co. surged 31 percent, Citigroup Inc. jumped 19 percent and Bank of America added 13 percent.

Investors showed little reaction to an economic assessment statement from the Federal Reserve that contained almost no news. The central bank left interest rates near zero percent after its two-day meeting. Policymakers also predicted a gradual recovery in the economy will begin later this year but they cautioned that significant risks remain.

"I don't think there is anything terribly surprising here. I think the surprise, or the good news of the day, was the bad bank proposal," said Jerry Webman, chief economist at Oppenheimer Funds Inc. in New York.

Investors were also more upbeat ahead of a House vote on an \$819 billion stimulus plan that contains a mix of new spending and tax cuts. Wall Street hopes the stimulus and other measures will help free the economy from its worst recession in decades.

Billions more needed for financial rescue

By DANIEL WAGNER, AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON – The Obama administration is developing proposals to help rescue the banking system that could cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars beyond the \$700 billion bailout Congress already has approved.

Details are still being worked out. But the administration will likely propose spending hundreds of billions more to address the foreclosure crisis, buy some distressed bank assets and guarantee losses on others, according to people with knowledge of the discussions who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Looming above the proposals is a plan to set up a federal bank — dubbed a "bad bank" — that would buy troubled assets clogging banks' balance sheets. This would free the institutions to lend money and would entice wary investors back into the market, proponents say.

But the government will have to commit to far more money than policymakers had expected even a few weeks ago.

"I think we're talking hundreds of billions of dollars," said Brian Gardner, an analyst with the research firm Keefe, Bruyette & Woods. "I don't think there's anyone who doubts the administration will be going back to the Hill for more than the \$350 billion" recently released from this fall's \$700 billion bailout package.

The International Monetary Fund wrote in a report Wednesday that losses from banks in the U.S. and Europe have hit \$1.1 trillion and could hit \$2.2 trillion.

At that rate, they will require "at least half a trillion dollars" to remain solvent," the report says.

Congressional Democrats have been seeking advice from economist Mark Zandi, who is pushing a three-point plan for banks that includes more capital infusions, guarantees against losses on bad assets and a "bad bank" to buy distressed assets.

"The should use all three of those tools aggressively," said Zandi, of Moody's Economy. com. "If they are able to establish a marketplace for those assets, the benefits could be readily apparent."

The "bad bank" plan's highestprofile advocate is Sheila Bair, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

By purchasing bad assets that banks can't sell now, the government would set prices for them. This could cost the banks dearly in write-downs. But it also could give investors clarity about the strength of the financial institutions. That, in turn, could encourage those on the sidelines to begin investing again.

"Buyers are going to say, 'Wait a minute, these are valuable assets; we just don't know how to price them,'" said Travis Larson, a spokesman for the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association. "Now, many of these toxic assets aren't toxic any more, because in fact, the market value has gone up as buyers reenter the market."

Bank stocks surged Wednesday on investor expectations about the proposed plan to purchase assets. Wells Fargo & Co. soared 31 percent, Citigroup Inc. 19 percent and Bank of America 13 percent.

"It's pretty great news for pretty much all banks, especially the big ones," said David Stepherson, portfolio manager at Hardesty Capital Management.

Administration officials said they expect Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner to unveil his plans for a new financial industry rescue next week.

Scott Talbott, a lobbyist with the Financial Services Roundtable, called the asset purchase plan a crucial part of

the new bailout. But he said, "There's no one-size-fits-all solution to the economy. Each financial institution is in a different situation."

He said the plan will require more money than has been allocated under the initial bailout, especially given the administration's intention to spend \$50 billion to \$100 billion of the remaining \$350 billion to address the foreclosure crisis.

But Talbott warned that the "bad bank" plan poses big obstacles. It would be hard to set prices fairly for assets that have stopped changing hands. And the plan would require an accounting rule change to prevent a ripple effect in which all similar assets would be priced down to the government's below-market offers.

"If they pay too much, the taxpayers are at risk," he said. "If they pay too little, banks will be reluctant to sell."

And if the government doesn't suspend a rule requiring all assets to be priced according to recent trades of similar assets, Talbott said, accounting losses "would undo all the effects and push the economy deeper into recession."

The problem of pricing distressed assets led former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to abandon his original plan to buy troubled bank assets. Paulson decided instead to inject money directly into the banks in exchange for ownership stakes.

At his confirmation hearing last week, Geithner identified three possible methods for pricing bad assets: using computer models, asking bank supervisors to suggest values and comparing the assets to securities that are still in some demand.

None would be easy, experts said. But with a mounting sense of urgency about banks' troubles, another costly rescue attempt is unavoidable.

Thursday, January 29, 2009 LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

PublisherJohn Chemaly Sr.

Managing Director John A. Chemaly Jr.

General Manager Grace Mary Maduro

Caribbean Speed Printing N.V. Westraat # 22 Oranjestad, Aruba Tel:(297) 582-7800 Fax: (297) 582-7044

www.arubatoday.com

E-mail news@arubatoday.com

Editor-in-Chief
Julia C. Renfro
Contributing Editors

Angela Muzenhofer Jan Falcone

International Editor Richard Brooks

Sales Team

Elly Erasmus Mareijke Croes Wendy Kelkboom

Page Designer Dina Maria

Advertising Coordinator Sandra Loefstop-Duarte aviso@bondia.com bondia.aruba@gmail.com

Obama's high-wire electric act

By the Monitor's Editorial Board

To justify taking homes and farms to build the Interstate highway, President Eisenhower cited a security need: Military vehicles must move fast in case of war. Now President Obama, citing a need to curb global warming, wants new transmission lines across America to carry electricity from carbon-free energy sources. Will he also use federal muscle to take people's land, even wilderness?

The question hangs like a sparking high-tension wire over Mr. Obama's plans to plow \$11 billion – part of his economic stimulus – into a "smart grid," which is critical to his ambitious goal to curb fossil fuel use by 2020.

Even without a need to help renewables transmit electrons, the nation's electric grid needs an upgrade. Its structure hasn't changed much from the days of Thomas Edison. Blackouts, such as the big one in 2003 that left 50 million people in the dark, are increasing. Its 164,000 miles of lines and 9,200 generating plants are illequipped to accept power from small-scale sources such as wind, geothermal, and biomass.

Yet Obama wants to double renewable energy within three years and bring it "to every corner of our nation." Without smashing through local resistance and environmental concerns to new transmission lines, he's unlikely to reach his goal.

One problem is that the best sites for renewables are generally not near major cities. Sun is plentiful in the Southwest and wind in the Great Plains. Most Americans live near the coasts.

In 2005, a new federal statute authorized the Energy secretary to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors while also allowing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to use eminent domain to build new lines. Both provisions have drawn fierce opposition, especially in New Jersey where the entire state has been designated a corridor. NIMBYism remains a strong force despite Al Gore's climate-change campaign.

The Obama team is slowly trying to make a compelling legal case for stronger federal powers. One think tank aligned with the new president, the Center for American Progress, claims "America's electricity grid is a vulnerable intersection of our national security interests and our energy and economic security." The new Energy secretary, Steven Chu, says new lines must be sited "in a way that takes into consideration the local feelings, but yet also recognizes the national needs."

One problem with this approach is that it is too national and potentially Big Brotherish in its methods, while most of the action so far on renewables is local and needs only local connections to utilities.

What's needed are "microgrids," or small-scale electricity distribution systems with many sources and local storage – much like the Internet – with a centralized long-distance system only as backup. Thousands of buildings now generate much of their electricity from rooftop solar panels, for example. Denmark, which relies on renewables for nearly a third of its electricity, has moved to microgrids.

Before Obama starts forcing people off their land for a worthy global cause, he should first think local. Many people – and states – are already ahead of him.



Obama's Middle East peace lesson

By Nigel Ashton

London – To varying degrees and with inconsistent results, President Obama's predecessors have all tried and failed to midwife peace in the Middle East.

But if he is serious about investing in a meaningful, invigorated peace process he might also look beyond the lessons of his predecessors. To find an answer that will not only halt the current violence but achieve a sustainable lasting solution, he should learn from the experience of one of the most critical players in Mideast peace throughout the latter half of the 20th century – King Hussein of Jordan.

Although the king died 10 years ago next month, he could still offer critical advice to Mr. Obama.

His private papers, sealed in the Royal Hashemite Archives until I was granted exclusive access in 2007, reveal a man inspired, frustrated, encouraged, and depressed by the strategies, engagement, and political vicissitudes of the relevant players.

Hussein's private correspondence with every American president since Eisenhower offers new insight into what worked, what didn't, and how a revived effort to broker a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians might improve America's chances of success in the region.

Jimmy Carter, "thrilled" by assurances that tackling Middle East peace topped Obama's agenda, similarly buoyed Hussein's hopes that the Carter presidency might hail a new era for the region. Carter's early pursuit of a multilateral peace followed the approach favored by the king.

But with the dramatic visit of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem in November 1977, Carter's multilateral process was effectively derailed. In the end, the 1978 Camp David summit produced a bilateral Egyptian-Israeli peace deal but neglected the fate of the Palestinians. In the king's view, until their fate was resolved, there could be no peace.

President Carter, Hussein believed, allowed himself to be tempted by the low hanging fruit – a bilateral deal – and abandoned his earlier aspirations for a regional peace deal. In a letter to Carter, the king explained his frustration on behalf of his fellow Arabs, writing, "[M]ost Arab parties, including Jordan, see the [Camp David] resolutions drawn up by the United States... as successfully achieving the well-known Israeli objective of isolating Egypt from the Arab camp and thus weakening it further." Thirty years on, the Palestinian question remains unsolved. Hussein would probably urge Obama

to establish and maintain a dogged focus on a comprehensive, multilateral solution, lest Obama's successor face the same policy challenge.

Arubu_TODAY

Like Obama today, President Reagan entered office with a large fund of goodwill among America's Arab allies. Yet early on, Reagan's failure to master even the basics raised serious doubts with the king.

The king's incredulity at Reagan's unabashed lack of knowledge about the region was eventually overshadowed by the Iran-contra scandal, which blindsided Hussein in November 1986.

Since 1982, the king had acted as an intermediary between Saddam Hussein and the US, which aimed to bolster the Iraqis in their war with revolutionary Iran. When the scandal broke, the king was plain in his letter to Reagan. "I must admit," he lamented, "that all my efforts to comprehend the rationale for the actions of the United States over the last eighteen months were in vain."

Along with his trust in the president, the scandal dashed the king's hopes for a new era in American-Arab relations and offer another lesson to President Obama: Play straight by your friends.

By contrast, Hussein always knew where President George H.W. Bush stood. Despite deep disagreement with Bush over the Gulf War, the letters that flowed between them present a straightforward and respectful policy dialogue.

The channel allowed Hussein to express privately his "disillusionment and deep disappointment over the divide which seems to increasingly separate genuine Arab and Muslim aspirations and legitimate rights and United States policies towards us." For his part, President Bush's frustration with the king is evident: "Your words exculpate Saddam Hussein for the most serious and most brazen crime against the Arab nation by another Arab in modern times." It was Hussein's involvement in the US-backed peace process after the Gulf crisis that formed the backdrop for the close relationship he developed with Bill Clinton. In contrast to Reagan, Clinton took time to study the substantial US military and economic aid package the king requested in June 1994 during the peace negotiations with Israel. Clinton and Hussein shared a commitment to

Clinton and Hussein shared a commitment to negotiating a comprehensive Middle East peace. After Hussein's death, the president wrote to his son King Abdullah commending Hussein's "dedication to peace and his commitment to the universal values of tolerance and mutual respect... He was an inspiration and model for us all." A lesson here for Obama: Details impress.



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Continued from Front Page
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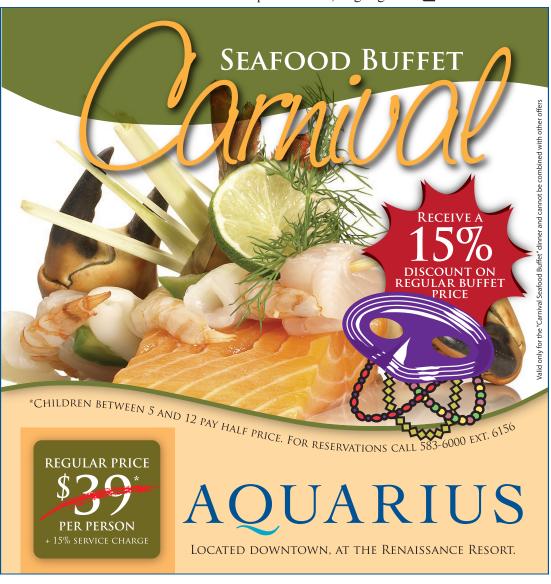




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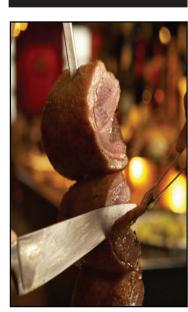
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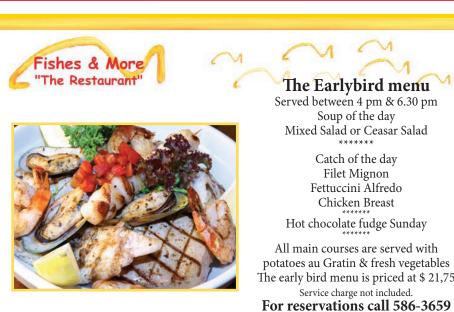
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On Top Of The News

Email: arubatoday@gmail.com

Thursday, January 29, 2009



President Barack Obama meets with business leaders to discuss the economy, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. From left are, the president; Google Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmidt; JetBlue Chief Executive Officer David Barger; and Micron Technology Chief Executive Officer Steve Appleton.

Associated Press

House passes economic stimulus, prodded by Obama

WASHINGTON – In a swift victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved a historically huge \$819 billion stimulus bill Wednesday night with spending increases and tax cuts at the heart of the young administration's plan to revive a badly ailing economy.

The vote was 244-188, with Republicans unanimous in opposition despite Obama's pleas for bipartisan support.

"We don't have a moment to spare," Obama declared at the White House as congressional allies hastened to do his bidding in the face of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The vote sent the bill to the Senate, where debate could begin as early as Monday on a companion measure already taking shape. Democratic leaders have pledged to have legislation ready for Obama's signature by mid-February.

A mere eight days after Inauguration Day, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Tuesday's events heralded a new era. "The ship of state is difficult to turn," said the California Democrat. "But that is what we must do. That is what President Obama called us to do in his inaugural address."

With unemployment at its highest level in a quarter-century, the banking industry wobbling despite the infusion of staggering sums of bailout money and states struggling with budget crises, Democrats said the legislation was desperately needed.

"Another week that we delay is another 100,000 or more people unemployed. I don't think we want

that on our consciences," said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and one of the leading architects of the legislation.

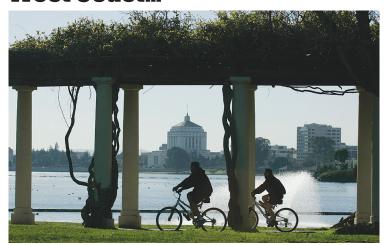
Republicans said the bill was short on tax cuts and contained too much spending, much of it wasteful and unlikely to help laid-off Americans. The party's leader, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, said the measure "won't create many jobs, but it will create plenty of programs and projects through slow-moving government spending." A GOP alternative, comprised almost entirely of tax cuts, was defeated, 266-170, moments before the final vote. On the final vote, the legislation drew overwhelming support among Democrats while all but a few Republicans opposed it.

The White House-backed legislation includes an estimated \$544 billion in federal spending and \$275 billion in tax cuts for individuals and businesses.

Included is money for traditional job-creating programs such as highway construction and mass transit projects. But the measure tickets far more for unemployment benefits, health care and food stamp increases designed to aid victims of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Tens of billions of additional dollars would go to the states, which confront the prospect of deep budget cuts of their own. That money marks an attempt to ease the recession's impact on schools and law enforcement.

Continued on Next Page

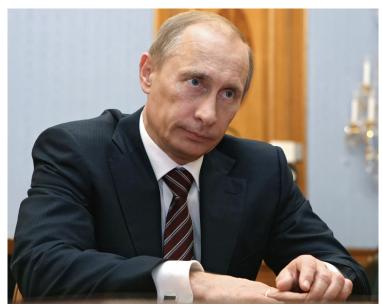
West Coast...



Cyclists ride around Lake Merritt Wednesday, Jan 28, 2009, in Oakland, Calif. The San Francisco Bay Area is enjoying above average temperatures in stark contrast to other areas of the nation.

Associated Press See more on Page 5

Russia official backing off on missile threat



Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin looks on during a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009. President-elect Barack Obama's fresh approach to foreign affairs is welcome, Russian analysts say, but if he installs a missile defense system in Central Europe and pushes NATO's eastward expansion, he will still face the threat of a new Cold War.

Associated Press

By STEVE GUTTERMAN Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - A Russian military official said Wednesday that Moscow was backing off a threat to deploy missiles near Poland, according to a report that may have been aimed at testing President Barack Obama's intent to build a European missile shield.

The private Interfax news agency cited an unidentified armed forces general staff official as saying Russia has suspended implementation of plans to deploy Iskander missiles in the Kaliningrad enclave because the Obama administration is not pushing hard to build an interceptor site next door in Poland.

A Kremlin official told The Associated Press that the Interfax report erroneously implied that Russia had been taking action, now suspended, to place missiles in Kaliningrad.

Continued on Page B6



In this Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, Attorney General-designate Eric Holder testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on his nomination. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Wednesday to favorably recommend Holder for the job.

Associated Press

STIMULUS Continued from Page B1

With funding for housing weatherization and other

provisions, the bill also makes a down payment on Obama's campaign promise of creating jobs that can reduce

the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

The centerpiece tax cut calls for a \$500 break for single workers and \$1,000 for couples, including those who don't earn enough to owe federal income taxes.

The House vote marked merely the first of several major milestones a for the legislation, which Democratic leaders have pledged to deliver to the White House for Obama's signature by mid-February.

Already a more bipartisan — and costlier — measure is taking shape in the Senate, and Obama personally pledged to House and Senate Republicans in closed-door meetings on Tuesday that he is ready to accept modifications as the legislation advances.

Rahm Emanuel, a former Illinois congressman who is Obama's chief of staff, invited nearly a dozen House Republicans to the White one participant said was a soft sales job.

ThislawmakerquotedEmanuel as telling the group that polling shows roughly 80 percent support for the legislation, and that Republicans oppose it at their political peril. The lawmaker spoke on condition of anonymity, saying there was no agreement to speak publicly about the session.

fact, though, Republicans in the House are virtually immune from Democratic challenges because of the makeup of their districts, and have more to fear from GOP primary challenges in 2010. As a result, they have relatively little political incentive to break with conservative orthodoxy and support hundreds of billions in new federal spending.

Also, some Republican lawmakers have said in recent days they know they will have a second chance to support

House late Tuesday for what a bill when the final House-Senate compromise emerges in a few weeks.

> Thatgaveanairofpredictability to the proceedings in the House, as Democrats defended the legislation as an appropriate response to the specter of double-digit unemployment in the near future.

> Rep. Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas, sought to strip out all the spending from the legislation before final passage, arguing that the entire cost of the bill would merely add to soaring federal deficits.

> "Where are we going to get the money," he asked, but his attempt failed overwhelmingly, 302-134.

Obey had a ready retort.

"They don't look like Herbert Hoover, I guess, but there are an awful lot of people in this chamber who think like Herbert Hoover," he said, referring to the president whose term is forever linked in history with the Great Depression.







U.S. NEWS B3
Thursday, January 29, 2009



Freezing death of Mich. man in house sparks anger

By DAVID EGGERT Associated Press

BAY CITY, Mich. – When neighbors went inside Marvin Schur's house, the windows were frosted over, icicles hung from a faucet, and the 93-year-old World War II veteran lay dead on the bedroom floor in a winter jacket over four layers of clothing.

He froze to death — slowly and painfully, authorities say — days after the electric company installed a power-limiting device because of more than \$1,000 in unpaid bills.

The old man's sad end two weeks ago has led to outrage, soul-searching and a resolve never to let something like this happen again.

"There's got to be a way in today's computer age they can find out if someone's over a certain age," said Chad Sepos, 37, a copy machine installer who lives a block away in this Lake Huron city of 34,000 people, about 90 miles from Detroit. "It's just sad."

One of the saddest things of all was that Schur appeared to have plenty of money, and, in fact, one of the neighbors who entered the home reported seeing cash clipped to a pile of bills on the kitchen table. Schur's nephew suggested the old man's mind may have been slipping.

Schur, or "Mutts," was a retired foundry worker who lived alone, his wife having died a couple of years ago. The couple had no children. He could often be seen through the big front window of his comfortably furnished home of 50 or 60

years, watching TV or keeping an eye on his neighborhood.

On Jan. 13, a worker with the city-owned utility installed a "limiter" on Schur's electric meter after four months of unpaid bills. The device restricts power and blows like a fuse if usage rises past a set level. Electricity is not restored until the device is flipped back on by the homeowner, who must walk outside to the meter.

Bay City Electric Light & Power did not contact Schur face-to-face to notify him of the device and explain how it works, instead following its usual policy by leaving a note on the door. But neighbors said Schur rarely, if ever, left the house in the cold.

At some point, the device evidently tripped and was not reset, authorities said. Schur's home was heated by a gas furnace, not electricity, but some gas furnaces do not work properly if the power is out.

Neighbors discovered Schur's body on Jan. 17 in his home, a yellow house with peeling paint. The outside temperature ranged from a high of 12 degrees to a low of minus 9 on Jan. 15, the day he was believed to have died. A heating pad was on his favorite armchair by the window. The oven door was open, perhaps to heat the place. "The body has a tremendous fighting power for survival. He died a slow, painful death," said Dr. Kanu Virani, who found frostbite on Schur's foot when performing the autopsy. Investigators are trying to establish how long he was without electricity.

City officials are reviewing their procedures and in the meantime have suspended shutoffs and removed all limiters from homes after using the devices for 18 years.

The medical examiner is looking into whether Schur suffered from dementia, particularly after police found enough cash lying around in the home to cover his bills. His nephew William Walworth said Schur told him two years ago he had \$600,000 in savings.

"It's definitely not a situation where money is an issue. The issue has to do with the mental faculties you have and your ability to make good decisions," said Walworth, 67, who lives in Ormond Beach, Fla.

"I think the utility's policies are horrible and insane," he added. "For 50 years he paid the bill on a regular basis and never had problems. If people would know who their customers are and take concern for their customers, maybe they'd go knock on the door and see if everything is OK."

Neighbors and others have posted messages on the Internet, complaining it was a shabby way to treat a veteran and demanding city employees be fired or prosecuted for not taking a few minutes to check on Schur, who was a medic in the South Pacific and earned a Purple Heart.

One blogger noted that even a pet owner who leaves his dog outside to freeze can face CICUIT BESKERS

ON FESTION

ON

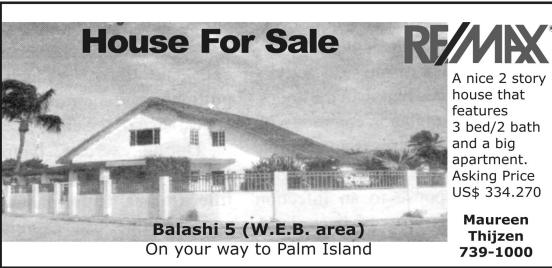
A sealed limiting device, center left, remains at the back of Marvin Schur's electric meter in Bay City, Mich., Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009. The device restricts power and blows out like a fuse if usage rises past a set level. Electricity isn't restored until the device is flipped back on. City officials are reviewing their procedures and in the meantime have removed limiter devices from all homes and temporarily stopped all shutoffs.

Associated Press

charges. Sharon Gire, director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, said Schur's death

was preventable. "He was one of Michigan's most vulnerable citizens in need," she said.





4rubu TODAY

Postmaster General: Mail days may need to be c



In this Sept. 18, 2003, photo, Virginia Beach postman Paul Martin delivers maill in Virginia Beach, Va. Massive deficits facing the post office could force the agency to cut out one day of mail delivery per week. Postmaster General John E. Potter asked Congress on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009, to lift the requirement that the agency deliver mail six days a week.

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID **Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) Massive deficits could force the U.S. post office to cut out one day of mail delivery per week, the postmaster general told Congress on Wednesday. Postmaster General John E. Potter asked lawmakers to lift the requirement that the agency deliver mail six days a week.

Faced with dwindling mail volume and rising costs, the

Associated Press

post office was \$2.8 billion in the red last year and, "if current trends continue, we could experience a net loss of \$6 billion or more this fiscal year," Potter said in testimony for a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee.

Total mail volume was 202 billion items last year, more than 9 billion less than the year before, the largest single volume drop in history.

And, despite annual rate

could be the first year since 1946 that the actual amount of money collected by the post office declines.

"It is possible that the cost of six-day delivery may simply prove to be unaffordable," Potter said. "I reluctantly request that Congress remove the annual appropriation bill rider, first added in 1983, that requires the Postal Service to deliver mail six days each week."

increases, Potter said 2009 If the change is made, that every option given the severity does not necessarily mean an end to Saturday mail delivery. Previous studies have looked at the possibility of skipping some other day, such as Tuesday.

> "The ability to suspend delivery on the lightest delivery days, for example, could save dollars in both our delivery and our processing and distribution networks. I do not make this request lightly, but I am forced to consider lightest volume days."

of our challenge," Potter said. That does not mean it would happen right away, he noted, adding that the agency is working to cut costs and any final decision on changing delivery would have to be made by the postal governing board.

If it did become necessary to go to five-day delivery, Potter said, "we would do this by suspending delivery on the

Rights group asks Obama to release Bush-era memos

By PAMELA HESS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Civil libertarians urged the Obama administration to release dozens of memos under its control that could shed light on secret Bush-era interrogation, detention and surveillance activities.

The American Civil Liberties Union's list of at least 41 such undisclosed documents is the most exhaustive produced so

far. These memos are a wish list for civil rights, privacy and human rights groups, as well as members of Congress, who seek more information about the legal reasoning that underpinned the Bush administration's secret programs.

In one of his first acts in office. President Barack Obama said he would increase the amount of information the government makes available to the public.

"The government should not keep information confidential merely because public officials might be embarrassed by disclosure, because errors and failures might be revealed, or because of speculative or abstract fears," Obama said in a Jan. 21 memo to his agency heads.

The ACLU's list of memos was culled from documents filed in two lawsuits by the group against the departments of Defense and Justice. Potentially dozens more memos exist, but the ACLU cannot get enough identifying details to include them on the

"The truth is these are a small subset of the memos that we know something about, where we had the author's name or the substances of the memo," said Jameel Jaffer, director of the ACLU's national security project.

The known memos include one from October 2001 that said the Fourth protections Amendment's against unreasonable searches and seizures did not apply to domestic military operations. It was later withdrawn.

That was subpoenaed by the Senate Judiciary Committee in October. It is unclassified but has been made available to the committee on a "read only" basis and remains at the Justice Department, according to a committee official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.



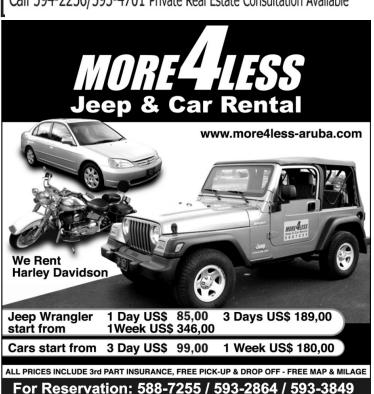
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U.S. REGIONALIB5 Thursday, January 29, 2009

East coast...



A pedestrian walks through a snowy Washington Park in Albany, N.Y., Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009. Scores of schools from the Finger Lakes to Long Island closed or delayed the start of classes Wednesday because of a storm that's expected to dump up to 16 inches of snow on some upstate areas.

Associated Press

Deadly winter storm begins barrage in Northeast

By PATRICK WALTERS Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA – A destructive winter storm left more than a million customers in the dark before barreling into the Northeast on Wednesday, delaying flights and turning the morning rush into the morning slush as communities braced for the worst

The storm has been blamed for at least 23 deaths and a glaze of ice and snow that caused widespread power failures from the Southern Plains to the East Coast. Authorities said it could be a week before some communities have electricity again. Tree limbs encased in ice tumbled onto roads and crashed onto power lines in hard-hit Arkansas, Kentucky and Oklahoma on Tuesday and overnight. In Arkansas — where ice was 3 inches thick in some places — people huddled next to portable heaters and wood-burning fires as utilities warned electricity may be out for a week or more.

David Stark had an adventurous trip on Interstate 71 to get to work in La Grange, in northern Kentucky.

"The roads look clear but you can't do over 40 mph," he said during a stop at a convenience store for gas and food. "There's a lot of black ice. I slipped and slid everywhere."

Since the storm began building on Monday, the weather had been blamed for at least six deaths in Texas, four in Arkansas, three in Virginia, six in Missouri, two in Oklahoma, and one each in Indiana and Ohio. Winter storm warnings were in effect from Texas to New England on Wednesday.

Power was being restored to thousands of residents of Oklahoma, which was spared the destruction caused by an ice storm that killed nearly 30 people and darkened a half-million homes and businesses for days about 13 months ago.

But next door in Arkansas, about 300,000 customers lacked power Wednesday morning. At least 470,000 were in the dark in Kentucky, where Pearl Schmidt's family endured a cold night without power at their Paintsville home.

"We bundled up together on a bed with four blankets. It's freezing," she said.

In Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, nearly 300,000 homes and businesses were in the dark as ice and snow coated parts of the states. Ohio's top Republican lawmaker, Senate President Bill Harris, slipped on ice outside a hotel near the Statehouse in Columbus, broke a leg and missed the governor's State of the State address Wednesday.

Tracey Ramey of Waynesville, Ohio, a village about 20 miles southeast of Dayton, said her husband left for his job as a snow-plow operator late Monday with an overnight bag and hasn't been able to return. He did call her Wednesday morning to caution her not to go to her data-entry job.

"He said, 'There's 2 inches of ice on the road and there's no way you're going to make it to work," she said.

Air travelers hunkered down at airports throughout the region. Delays or cancellations were reported at airports including those serving Columbus, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. The snow and sleet abated somewhat in southeastern Pennsylvania as temperatures rose above freezing later in the day. But in northern and central Pennsylvania, snow accumulations could reach 4 to 8 inches. Up to 8 inches was expected in parts of western Pennsylvania.



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Thursday, January 29, 2009 **WORLD NEWS**



A Russian Iskander missile mounted on a truck in the Siberian town of Nizhny Tagil in 2005. Russia has shelved plans to install missiles on central Europe's doorstep after detecting a cooling by the Obama administration towards a controversial US shield project, a military official has said.

Photo by Evgeny Stetsko

MISSILE THREAT **Continued from Page B1**

The official reiterated that President Dmitry Medvedev has said Russia would only send Iskanders there if the U.S. presses ahead with plans missile interceptors in Poland and a radar in the Czech Republic.

That policy has not changed,

the Kremlin official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the matter on record.

Defense Ministry officials made similar statements to the state-run ITAR-Tass and RIA-Novosti news agencies.

Still, the initial report sounded like a peace offering in one of the prickliest disputes between

Russia and the U.S. under former President George W. Bush. It may have been aimed at eliciting a clear signal from Obama about whether he will press ahead with his predecessor's plans - and encouraging him to abandon them.

The Interfax report came hours before Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who upset the West with his increasingly assertive policies and pronouncements in eight years as president, spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Putin refrained from directly blaming the U.S. for the global financial crisis, as he has in the

Obama has not been explicit in public about whether he would proceed with installations in Poland and the Czech Republic. More broadly he has said he supports missile defense but wants to ensure that it is proven to be a reliable system that does not detract from other security priorities.

U.S. State Department

Wood spokesman Robert reiterated position that Wednesday, saying that "we'll support missile defense, if it's proven to work."

He said the reports from Russia were a "positive development," but that he could not confirm whether they were true and did not know if the United States had been directly contacted by Russia about the matter.

The dispute over the U.S. missile defense plans epitomized the deepening distrust between Russia and America during the Bush administration. Badly strained relations hit a post-Cold War low after Russia's war with pro-Western Georgia in August.

The United States has said the planned missile defense system is aimed at preventing missile attacks by "rogue states" such as Iran, but Russian officials claim the true intention is to undermine Russia's defenses.

Medvedev's threat to deploy missiles in Kaliningrad in response came in his state of the nation speech hours after

Obama was declared the winner of the U.S. presidential race. The chief of Russia's general staff, Nikolai Makarov, also said last month that Russia would only take action to deploy Iskanders in Kaliningrad if the U.S. moves forward on the missile defense sites.

Lubu TODAY

Top Russian officials have urged Obama to abandon the plans for Poland and the Czech Republic, suggesting that a potential thaw in ties between Moscow and Washington depends on it.

In Brussels, NATO spokesman James Appathurai said it "would certainly be a good step" if Russia rescinded its threat to place missiles in Kaliningrad.

"I hope that Moscow has come to the conclusion that it harmed itself when it announced this intention" to deploy the missiles, Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg he said.

At Davos, Polish Minister Donald Tusk said he would be meeting with Putin "and I will ask him if this is true that Russia changed its point of view. I think so. I hope so."



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK 4 **JANUARY 29 - FEBRUARY 4**

*matinee: saturday and sunday | late show: friday and saturday

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TALE OF DESPEREAUX

Friday: 8:00 & 10:30 Thursday: 8:00 MARLEY & ME

Saturday: 8:00 & 10:30 Sunday: 8:00

WORLD NEWS B7 Thursday, January 29, 2009



Israel's chief rabbinate severs ties with Vatican

By IAN DEITCH

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) _ Israel's chief rabbinate severed ties with the Vatican on Wednesday to protest a papal decision to reinstate a bishop who publicly denied 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust.

The Jewish state's highest religious authority sent a letter to the Holy See expressing "sorrow and pain" at the papal decision. "It will be very difficult for the chief rabbinate of Israel to continue its dialogue with the Vatican as before," the letter said. Chief rabbis of both the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews were parties to the letter. The rabbinate, which faxed

The rabbinate, which faxed a copy of the letter to The Associated Press, also canceled a meeting with the Vatican set for March. The rabbinate and the state of Israel have separate ties with the Vatican, and Wednesday's move does not affect state relations.

Pope Benedict XVI, faced with an uproar over the bishop, said Wednesday he feels "full and indisputable solidarity" with Jews and warned against any denial of the full horror of the Nazi genocide.

The remarks were his first public comments on the issue since the controversy erupted Saturday. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the Vatican hoped that in light of the pope's words,



Pope Benedict XVI delivers his message during his weekly general audience, in Paul VI Hall at the Vatican, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009. Benedict XVI said Wednesday that he feels "full and indisputable solidarity" with Jews and warned against any reduction or denials of the horror of the Holocaust. At left is Archbishop James Harvey, Prefect of the Papal Household.

"the difficulties expressed by the Israeli Rabbinate can be subjected to further and deeper reflection."

Lombardi expressed hope that dialogue between the two parties can continue "fruitfully and serenely."

Oded Weiner, the director general of the chief rabbinate's office, welcomed the pope's remarks, calling them "a big step toward reconciliation."

With his comments, the pope reached out to Jews angered by his decision to rehabilitate bishop Richard Williamson, who told Swedish TV in an interview broadcast last week that evidence "is hugely

Associated Press

against 6 million Jews being deliberately gassed." He said 300,000 Jews were killed at most, "but not one of them by gassing in a gas chamber."

About 6 million Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II. Many were gassed in death camps while others were killed en masse in other ways, including shooting and starvation. About 240,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel.

Jewish groups, including the American Jewish Committee, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Israel's quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, denounced the Vatican for bringing a Holocaust denier back into the fold.

The Vatican quickly distanced itself from Williamson's comments and said removing the excommunication by no means implied the Vatican shared his views.

Williamson and three other bishops were excommunicated 20 years ago after they were consecrated by an ultraconservative archbishop without papal consent _ a move the Vatican at the time called an act of schism.



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Aruba TODAY

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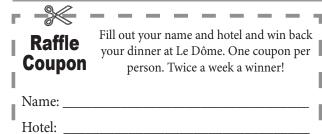
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TAMPA BAY 02.01.09



that once you eat at Fishes and More, consider yourself addicted. The owners Jeroen Kuling and Hans Heijink together with the staff Romalo, Heidi, Mariella, Denise and Chef Gerben work hard keeping the restaurant open 7 days a week from 4 pm till 11pm for everyone to enjoy. The ambiance at the restaurant is out of this world, whether dinning inside in the re- Most guests come in early fix of Pina Colada Shrimp. laxed air-conditioned din- for the daily fresh catchning room or outside on the es, such as Red snapterrace to enjoy the tropical per, grouper, mahi mahi, breeze and daily live music. wahoo and tuna. Check



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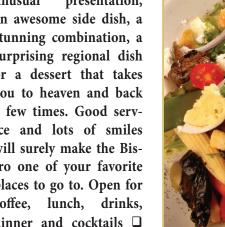
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Thursday, January 29, 2009 SPORTS

Anuba TODAY

SPURIS ENDING

Serena to play Dementieva in Australian Open semis



Serena Williams of the United States celebrates after beating Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova during their Women's singles quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009.

By PAUL ALEXANDER Associated Press Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Serena Williams was having what she called an "out-of-body experience" Wednesday in brutal heat at the Australian Open.

Closing the Rod Laver Arena roof and cranking up the air conditioning helped the defending champion pull herself together and advance to the semifinals - but left her **Associated Press** opponent steaming.

"I felt I was watching someone play in a blue dress, and it wasn't me, because it was so hot out there," said the secondranked American, who beat Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 5-7, 7-5, 6-1. "And I kept trying to tell myself that it's not hot. But it got hotter."

Williams, seeking her fourth Australian title and 10th Grand Slam championship overall, next faces Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva, who had to play her entire match with the roof open. The fourth-seeded Dementieva ousted Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-2 to run her winning streak to 15 matches after she won two tuneup tournaments.

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal won his fifth match without dropping a set by beating Gilles Simon 6-2, 7-5, 7-5, though he was strongly tested by the sixth-seeded Frenchman. Simon broke his serve three times -matching Nadal's total for the tournament - and had a set point with the Spaniard serving at 4-5 in the second set.

Nadal was up to the task, ripping several winners on the dead run that were never inside the court until they landed and skipped away untouched.

Simon won their last meeting in Madrid in October.

"I was coming to the match with some doubts," Nadal said. "But I knew I was playing better here."

Simon is one of the quickest players around, but Nadal just ground him down by constantly sending him sprinting from corner to corner. Even with the roof still closed, the lanky Frenchman was pouring out sweat.

Nadal got his seventh service break on a forehand that caught the line for a 6-5 edge in the third set, then held at love with Simon sending a forehand long on match point.

His victory set up an all-Spanish semifinal, with 14th-seeded Fernando Verdasco - the lowest-ranked player to reach the quarterfinals - earlier beating No. 5 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, last year's runner-up, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"I think it's incredible for us," Nadal said. "One will be in the finals, so we have to be happy with that."

The heat wave is forecast to continue Thursday. If Williams wins - Dementieva has won their last three meetings, including the Olympic quarterfinals - she would play a Russian for the third consecutive match in the final. Third-seeded Dinara Safina is facing fellow Russian Vera Zvonareva in the other semifinal.

"Me against the Russians, I guess," Williams said.

With temperatures soaring to 43 C (109 F) on a cloudless day - moths were dying within

seconds of touching down on the blistering surface and Williams had her rackets restrung during her match because they lost their tension - the retractable roof was closed after Kuznetsova won the first set.

The heat was beginning to take a toll on Williams, and the eighth-seeded Kuznetsova was angry at the decision. She felt that the break gave Williams time to recover and that playing indoors benefited the American's powerful serve.

"Why should I not be?" Kuznetsova said. "Game going my way. I was very comfortable playing outside. It's two different games. One you play inside; one you play outside. Serena was tough. She's playing great. I give her credit. But I don't get this rule."

Neither did other players.

Even though Dementieva won, she felt the roof should have been closed before her match started. Tournament officials called a news conference to explain the decision-making process, bringing in the official doctor and meteorologist to talk about the "Wet Bulb Globe measure" that determines when it's too hot.



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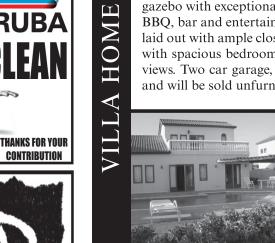
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La Colina 15 For more information, ask at the sales gallery. Priced at US \$3,800,000





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week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-1B RoyalClubGrandLe.-US\$32,000 week#2-17-OccidentaGrandl-1B

Delux, Ocean View- US\$14,000

week#2-17-OccidentalGrand-JR Suite - OceanView - US\$16,000 week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-JR.

week# 1-17OccidentalGrand-EX Studio, PoolView - US\$9,000

Suite, Oceanview - US\$13,000

week#2,3,4,-LaCabana-1Bdx R#401d,OceanFr.-US\$15,000pw

week# 5 & 6-La Cabana - 1Bdr R#401d-OceanFront-US\$18,000 week# 6 -DiviPhoenix -1Bdr

week# 7 - Renaissance - 1Bdr R#2537, PoolOcean-US\$15,000 week# 3 & 4-Renaissance.-1Bdr

R#601-Oceanview-US\$10,000

Groundfl,Oceanv-US\$30,000pw PlatimumW#1-17,Marriott Surf -

PlatimumW#1-1/,Marriott Surf - 3bdr,OceanView -US\$50,000 ForRent: DiviPhoenix week#4&5

2009 R#108,- US\$1,500 perwk week# 1&2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr

week# 2, Aruban Resort-1Bdr. R#4584, Poolview - US\$8,000

R#4585, Poolv - US\$8,000 pw

week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#1586,poolview- US\$8,000pw

week# 1,2,3,4 ArubanRes-1Bdr. R#3586, poolv- US\$7,000pw week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr.

week# 4 Aruban Resort- 2Bdr. R#5510,poolview- US\$14,000 For Rent.ParadiseB- week 4&5

R#108,poolv- US\$1,500pw Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanSide -US\$33,000

Platinum W#1-17.Marriott Surf. 2Bdr,OceanView US\$30,000

Week# 7,La Cabana - 1Bdr. Room#339,OceanFr-US\$8,000

Week# 7, La Cabana - 1Bdr Room#429c,OceanVi-US\$9,000 For Rent,Renaissance - 1Bdr week 4, Oceanview - US\$1,500

Week# 7 Aruban Resort - 3Bdr R#2506a, poolv - US\$30,000

Week# 5 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#613,PoolOcean-US\$18,000

Week# 6 - The Mill Resort-1Bdr R#220a, Poolview - US\$7,500

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PlatinumW#1-17.Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,OceanFront-US\$60,000 week# 1 -CostaLinda - 2Bdr.

R#2031,Ocean/pool-US\$25,000 week#1 CostaLinda - 2Bdr

R#1014,OceanView-US\$24,000 Platinum,Marriott Ocean CLub 2Bdr, OceanFront - US\$35,000

week# 4, Costa Linda - 2Bdr. R#2012,Oceanview.-US\$24,000 week# 6. Costa Linda - 2 Bdr.

R#1010,Oceanview-US\$24,000 week# 5 - Costa Linda - 2 Bdr.

R#3004,Ocean/Pool-US\$26,000

week# 4&5,Costa Linda -2Br 4th floor,OceanP-US\$60,000

week# 4 & 5 DiviPhoenix -studio R#108,OceanFR-US\$12,000pw

week# 2.Aruban Resort-1 Bdr.

R#4584 ,PoolView-US\$.8,475 week# 1,Paradise B.V - 1 Bdr. R#227, Oceanfront-US\$15,000

week# 2, ParadiseBV - 2Bdr. R# 207,Ocean/Pool-US\$15,000 week# 3&4, ParadiseB.V - 1Bdr. R#101,Ocean/p-US\$12,000pw

week# 4, ParadiseB.V - 2Bdr. R#129,Oceanfront - US\$24,000 2xPlatinum(1-17)Marriott Ocean 2Bdr,Oceanview - US\$22,000

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week#2bianual-DiviPhoenixStudio.R#404,Oceanfront- US\$6,000

week# 3 -DiviVillage -studio R#5508,Golfpoolv.-US\$8,000

week#3-4, DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#416,Oceanfrnt-US\$25,000pw

week# 4 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#901- Oceanview-US\$11,000 week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr. R#1001,Oceanv- US\$10,000

week#5-DiviPhoenix-2Bdr/2bath R#206,Oceanfront US\$20,000

week#6-7-DiviPhoenix - 2Bdr R#302,Oceanfro.-US\$25,000pw

week# 3 - DiviPhoenix - 1Bdr R#209-OceanFront- US\$10,000 week# 5 - Aruban Resort - 1-Bdr R#5537g-Poolview-US\$7,000

R#4226-,Ocean/p-US\$16,000pw week#1-2,-3 -DiviLinks - 1Bdr R#4226,Ocean/P-US\$16,000pw

weeks#50,51,52,-DiviLinks-1Bdr

week# 4 - DiviLinks - Studio. R#2108,Poolv - US\$14,000 week# 4-DiviLinks -1 Bdr.

week# 5- DiviLinks - Studio R#2214,PoolV.- US\$14,000

R#2105,Poolview-US\$16,000

week# 4- DiviPhoenix - 2 Bdr R#302,OceanFront-US\$23,000

week# 7-DiviPhoenix - studio R#105,OceanPo,US\$11,500

week# 3 - DiviVillage - Studio. R#8303,PoolOcean-US\$8,000 week# 1-RIU Palace - 2Bdr

R#269,Oceanfront-US\$27,000 week# 5&6-La Cabana - 2Bdr

R#440b&c,Oce/p-US\$20,000pw week# 5 - La Cabana -1Br

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Después de atentado terrorista en Bogotá

Colombia crea unidad élite para combatir extorsión tras ataque



Miembros de la policía colombiana inspeccionan el lugar de una explosión en el norte de Bogotá, 27 ene 2009. Colombia ordenó el miércoles conformar una unidad élite de las Fuerzas Armadas para combatir la extorsión, después de un ataque con bomba presuntamente ejecutado por las FARC en la capital del país que dejó dos muertos. REUTERS/El Tiempo

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Colombia ordenó el miércoles conformar una unidad élite de las Fuerzas Armadas para combatir la extorsión, después de un ataque con bomba presuntamente ejecutado por las FARC en la capital del país que dejó dos muertos.

La explosión en un local de la firma estadounidense de alquilerdevídeos Blockbuster causó graves daños materiales y la destrucción de varios vehículos, el ataque explosivo más grave de los últimos meses en la capital colombiana de más de 7 millones de habitantes.

El Gobierno y las autoridades de Policía sospechan que el ataque fue cometido por un comando urbano de las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) para presionar el pago de una millonaria extorsión.

"El señor Ministro de la Defensa instalará en las próximas horas una estructura conjunta de inteligencia con Ejército, Policía, DAS y Fiscalía, para activar de manera permanente con cada sector de la economía la identificación de casos de extorsión y en la captura de los extorsionistas", dijo un

comunicado del Gobierno.

La extorsión se habría convertido en una importante fuente de financiación de las FARC debido a la lucha contra el narcotráfico y una ofensiva militar impulsada por el presidente Alvaro Uribe que ha permitido reducir los secuestros, delito con el que el grupo rebelde obtenía millonarios ingresos junto con el tráfico de drogas, según fuentes de seguridad. El ministro de Defensa, Juan Manuel Santos, dijo que Blockbuster fue extorsionada en el pasado y que en el

2007 dos de sus locales en

Bogotá sufrieron ataques con

bombas

"No tenemos todavía una indicación precisa sobre la autoría de este cobarde atentado, pero todo indica que fueron las FARC", dijo Santos a periodistas.

Pero el Gobierno aseguró que lo sucedido demuestra "la farsa" de las FARC que mientras hablan de derechos humanos, liberaciones y acuerdo humanitario ejecutan actos "de terror".

El grupo guerrillero anunció seis cautivos en med desde el 21 de diciembre la selva colombiana

liberación del ex gobernador del departamento del Meta Alan Jara, del ex diputado del ex departamento del Valle Sigifredo López, tres policías y un soldado.

La entrega de los rehenes aún no se ha producido por problemas logísticos, pero se espera que se realice en los próximos días después de que Brasil anunció que prestará los helicópteros y la logística para recibir a los seis cautivos en medio de la selva colombiana









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